

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-38. (Canceled).

39. (New) A thrust sliding bearing comprising:

an upper annular body having an annular surface; and

a lower annular body having an annular surface opposing the annular surface of said upper annular body and superposed on said upper annular body so as to be rotatable about an axis of said upper annular body;

the annular surface of one of said annular bodies being formed of a synthetic resin and being flat, a closed recess surrounded by synthetic resin-made projections abutting slidably against the annular surface of said one annular body being formed in the annular surface of another one of said annular bodies, and a fluid being adapted to be filled in said closed recess, said projections including at least an inner annular projection located on an inner peripheral side, an outer annular projection located radially outwardly of said inner annular projection and disposed concentrically with said inner annular projection, and a plurality of radial protrusions extending radially and connected to respective ones of said inner annular projection and said outer annular projection.

40. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein a thrust load is received by said projections and the fluid filled in said closed recess.

41. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein said projections are adapted to abut against the annular surface of said one annular body in such a manner as to be

flexurally deformed under a thrust load so as to make the fluid filling capacity of said closed recess small.

42. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein said projections are adapted to abut against the annular surface of said one annular body in such a manner as to be flexurally deformed under a thrust load so as to cause the fluid in said closed recess to generate internal pressure by making the fluid filling capacity of said closed recess small.

43. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein said closed recess is surrounded by said projections such that an area of said closed recess opposing the annular surface of said one annular body is greater than an area of said projections which slidably abut against the annular surface of said one annular body.

44. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein said fluid is adapted to be filled in said closed recess to be in contact with the annular surface of said one annular body, said closed recess is surrounded by said projections such that an area of the fluid contacting the annular surface of said one annular body is greater than an area of said projections which slidably abut against the annular surface of said one annular body.

45. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein said annular bodies are formed of a synthetic resin.

46. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein said annular bodies are formed of a synthetic resin including at least one of polyacetal resin, polyamide resin, polyester resin, polyolefin resin, polycarbonate resin, and fluororesin.

47. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claims 39, wherein said one annular body is formed of polyacetal resin, and said projections or said other annular body including said

projections are formed of a synthetic resin including at least one of polyamide resin, polyolefin resin, and fluororesin.

48. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein said upper annular body at a radially outer peripheral edge portion thereof is adapted to be resiliently fitted to said lower annular body at a radially outer peripheral edge portion of said lower annular body.

49. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein the fluid includes at least one of grease and lubricating oil.

50. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein the fluid is silicone-based grease.

51. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein a labyrinth is formed between said annular bodies in at least one of radially outer peripheral edge portions and inner peripheral edge portions of said annular bodies.

52. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein said projections are formed on the annular surface of said other annular body integrally with said other annular body, and said other annular body including said projections is integrally formed.

53. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein said other annular body has an annular member and an annular piece disposed between said annular member and said one annular body rotatably about an axis of said one annular body with respect to said one annular body, and the annular surface of said other annular body opposing the synthetic resin-made annular surface of said one annular body is formed on said annular piece, said projections being formed integrally on the annular surface of the annular piece.

54. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 53, wherein said annular piece has another synthetic resin-made flat annular surface on a reverse side of the annular surface

opposing the annular surface of said one annular body, and said annular member has a synthetic resin-made flat annular surface opposing the other annular surface of said annular piece, and the other flat annular surface of said annular piece slidably abutting against the flat annular surface of said annular member.

55. (New) A thrust sliding bearing comprising:

an upper annular body having an annular surface; and

a lower annular body having an annular surface opposing the annular surface of said upper annular body and superposed on said upper annular body so as to be rotatable about an axis of said upper annular body;

the annular surface of one of said annular bodies being formed of a synthetic resin and being flat, a closed recess surrounded by synthetic resin-made projections abutting slidably against the annular surface of said one annular body being formed in the annular surface of another one of said annular bodies, and a fluid being adapted to be filled in said closed recess, said other annular body having an annular member and an annular piece disposed between said annular member and said one annular body rotatably about an axis of said one annular body with respect to said one annular body, the annular surface of said other annular body opposing the synthetic resin-made annular surface of said one annular body being formed on said annular piece, said projections being formed integrally on the annular surface of the annular piece, which has another annular surface on a reverse side of the annular surface of the annular piece opposing the annular surface of said one annular body, said annular member having a synthetic resin-made flat annular surface opposing the other annular surface of said annular piece, another closed recess surrounded by synthetic resin-made other projections integrated with said annular piece and abutting slidably against the annular surface of said annular member being formed in the

other annular surface of said annular piece, and another fluid being adapted to be filled in said other closed recess, which is surrounded by said other projections such that an area of said other closed recess opposing the annular surface of said annular member is greater than an area of said other projections which slidably abut against the annular surface of said annular member..

56. (New) A thrust sliding bearing comprising:

an upper annular body having an annular surface; and

a lower annular body having an annular surface opposing the annular surface of said upper annular body and superposed on said upper annular body so as to be rotatable about an axis of said upper annular body;

the annular surface of one of said annular bodies being formed of a synthetic resin and being flat, a closed recess surrounded by synthetic resin-made projections abutting slidably against the annular surface of said one annular body being formed in the annular surface of another one of said annular bodies, and a fluid being adapted to be filled in said closed recess, said other annular body having an annular member and an annular piece disposed between said annular member and said one annular body rotatably about an axis of said one annular body with respect to said one annular body, the annular surface of said other annular body opposing the synthetic resin-made annular surface of said one annular body being formed on said annular piece, said projections being formed integrally on the annular surface of the annular piece, which has another annular surface on a reverse side of the annular surface of the annular piece opposing the annular surface of said one annular body, said annular member having a synthetic resin-made flat annular surface opposing the other annular surface of said annular piece, another closed recess surrounded by synthetic resin-made other projections integrated with said annular piece and abutting slidably against the annular surface of said annular member being formed in the

other annular surface of said annular piece, another fluid being adapted to be filled in said other closed recess to be in contact with the annular surface of said annular member, and said other closed recess being surrounded by said other projections such that an area of the other fluid contacting the annular surface of said annular member is greater than an area of said other projections which slidably abut against the annular surface of said annular member.

57. (New) A thrust sliding bearing comprising:

an upper annular body having an annular surface; and

a lower annular body having an annular surface opposing the annular surface of said upper annular body and superposed on said upper annular body so as to be rotatable about an axis of said upper annular body;

the annular surface of one of said annular bodies being formed of a synthetic resin and being flat, a closed recess surrounded by synthetic resin-made projections abutting slidably against the annular surface of said one annular body being formed in the annular surface of another one of said annular bodies, and a fluid being adapted to be filled in said closed recess, said other annular body having an annular member and an annular piece disposed between said annular member and said one annular body rotatably about an axis of said one annular body with respect to said one annular body, the annular surface of said other annular body opposing the synthetic resin-made annular surface of said one annular body being formed on said annular piece, said projections being formed integrally on the annular surface of the annular piece, which has another annular surface on a reverse side of the annular surface of the annular piece opposing the annular surface of said one annular body, said annular member having a synthetic resin-made flat annular surface opposing the other annular surface of said annular piece, another closed recess surrounded by synthetic resin-made other projections integrated with said annular piece

and abutting slidably against the annular surface of said annular member being formed in the other annular surface of said annular piece, another fluid being adapted to be filled in said other closed recess, said other projections including at least another inner annular projection located on an inner peripheral side, another outer annular projection located radially outwardly of said other inner annular projection and disposed concentrically with said other inner annular projection, and a plurality of other radial protrusions extending radially and connected to respective ones of said other inner annular projection and said other outer annular projection.

58. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 55, wherein said annular member and said annular piece are formed of a synthetic resin.

59. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 55, wherein said annular member and said annular piece are formed of a synthetic resin including at least one of polyacetal resin, polyamide resin, polyester resin, polyolefin resin, polycarbonate resin, and fluororesin.

60. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 55, wherein said annular member is formed of polyacetal resin, and said annular piece is formed of a synthetic resin including at least one of polyamide resin, polyolefin resin, and fluororesin.

61. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 55, wherein a thrust load is received by said other projections and the other fluid filled in said other closed recess.

62. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 55, wherein said other projections are adapted to abut against the annular surface of said annular member in such a manner as to be flexurally deformed under a thrust load so as to make the fluid filling capacity of said other closed recess small.

63. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 55, wherein said other projections are adapted to abut against the annular surface of said annular member in such a manner as to be flexurally deformed under a thrust load so as to cause the fluid in said other closed recess to generate internal pressure by making the fluid filling capacity of said other closed recess small.

64. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 55, wherein said other projections include at least another inner annular projection located on an inner peripheral side and another outer annular projection located radially outwardly of said other inner annular projection and disposed concentrically with said other inner annular projection.

65. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 55, wherein said annular member is formed of polyacetal resin, and said annular piece and said other projections are formed of a synthetic resin including at least one of polyamide resin, polyolefin resin, and fluororesin.

66. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 55, wherein the other fluid includes at least one of grease and lubricating oil.

67. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 55, wherein the other fluid is silicone-based grease.

68. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 55, wherein said upper annular body at a radially outer peripheral edge portion thereof is adapted to be resiliently fitted to said annular member at a radially outer peripheral edge portion of said annular member.

69. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 55, wherein a labyrinth is formed between said upper annular body and said annular member in at least one of radially outer peripheral edge portions and inner peripheral edge portions of said upper annular body and said annular member.

70. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein said one annular body is one of an upper casing and a lower casing, and said other annular body is another one of said upper casing and said lower casing.

71. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein said one annular body is an upper casing, and said other annular body is constituted by a bearing piece and a lower casing.

72. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein said one annular body is a lower casing, and said other annular body is constituted by a bearing piece and an upper casing.

73. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 56, wherein said annular member and said annular piece are formed of a synthetic resin.

74. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 56, wherein said annular member and said annular piece are formed of a synthetic resin including at least one of polyacetal resin, polyamide resin, polyester resin, polyolefin resin, polycarbonate resin, and fluororesin.

75. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 56, wherein said annular member is formed of polyacetal resin, and said annular piece is formed of a synthetic resin including at least one of polyamide resin, polyolefin resin, and fluororesin.

76. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 56, wherein a thrust load is received by said other projections and the other fluid filled in said other closed recess.

77. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 56, wherein said other projections are adapted to abut against the annular surface of said annular member in such a

manner as to be flexurally deformed under a thrust load so as to make the fluid filling capacity of said other closed recess small.

78. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 56, wherein said other projections are adapted to abut against the annular surface of said annular member in such a manner as to be flexurally deformed under a thrust load so as to cause the fluid in said other closed recess to generate internal pressure by making the fluid filling capacity of said other closed recess small.

79. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 56, wherein said other projections include at least another inner annular projection located on an inner peripheral side and another outer annular projection located radially outwardly of said other inner annular projection and disposed concentrically with said other inner annular projection.

80. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 56, wherein said annular member is formed of polyacetal resin, and said annular piece and said other projections are formed of a synthetic resin including at least one of polyamide resin, polyolefin resin, and fluororesin.

81. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 56, wherein the other fluid includes at least one of grease and lubricating oil.

82. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 56, wherein the other fluid is silicone-based grease.

83. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 56, wherein said upper annular body at a radially outer peripheral edge portion thereof is adapted to be resiliently fitted to said annular member at a radially outer peripheral edge portion of said annular member.

84. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 56, wherein a labyrinth is formed between said upper annular body and said annular member in at least one of radially outer peripheral edge portions and inner peripheral edge portions of said upper annular body and said annular member.

85. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 56, wherein said one annular body is one of an upper casing and a lower casing, and said other annular body is another one of said upper casing and said lower casing.

86. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 56, wherein said one annular body is an upper casing, and said other annular body is constituted by a bearing piece and a lower casing.

87. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 56, wherein said one annular body is a lower casing, and said other annular body is constituted by a bearing piece and an upper casing.

88. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 57, wherein said annular member and said annular piece are formed of a synthetic resin.

89. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 57, wherein said annular member and said annular piece are formed of a synthetic resin including at least one of polyacetal resin, polyamide resin, polyester resin, polyolefin resin, polycarbonate resin, and fluororesin.

90. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 57, wherein said annular member is formed of polyacetal resin, and said annular piece is formed of a synthetic resin including at least one of polyamide resin, polyolefin resin, and fluororesin.

91. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 57, wherein a thrust load is received by said other projections and the other fluid filled in said other closed recess.

92. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 57, wherein said other projections are adapted to abut against the annular surface of said annular member in such a manner as to be flexurally deformed under a thrust load so as to make the fluid filling capacity of said other closed recess small.

93. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 57, wherein said other projections are adapted to abut against the annular surface of said annular member in such a manner as to be flexurally deformed under a thrust load so as to cause the fluid in said other closed recess to generate internal pressure by making the fluid filling capacity of said other closed recess small.

94. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 57, wherein said annular member is formed of polyacetal resin, and said annular piece and said other projections are formed of a synthetic resin including at least one of polyamide resin, polyolefin resin, and fluoro-resin.

95. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 57, wherein the other fluid includes at least one of grease and lubricating oil.

96. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 57, wherein the other fluid is silicone-based grease.

97. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 57, wherein said upper annular body at a radially outer peripheral edge portion thereof is adapted to be resiliently fitted to said annular member at a radially outer peripheral edge portion of said annular member.

98. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 57, wherein a labyrinth is formed between said upper annular body and said annular member in at least one of radially outer peripheral edge portions and inner peripheral edge portions of said upper annular body and said annular member.

99. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 57, wherein said one annular body is one of an upper casing and a lower casing, and said other annular body is another one of said upper casing and said lower casing.

100. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 57, wherein said one annular body is an upper casing, and said other annular body is constituted by a bearing piece and a lower casing.

101. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 57, wherein said one annular body is a lower casing, and said other annular body is constituted by a bearing piece and an upper casing.

102. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein said one annular body is one of an upper casing and a lower casing, and said other annular body is another one of said upper casing and said lower casing.

103. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein said one annular body is an upper casing, and said other annular body is constituted by a bearing piece and a lower casing.

104. (New) The thrust sliding bearing according to claim 39, wherein said one annular body is a lower casing, and said other annular body is constituted by a bearing piece and an upper casing.